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(*b*) if not, whether the Government have any proposal to allot any amount for the same?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The Government of India have allotted to this State from the Cess Fund, a sum of Rs. 1,99,440 for providing the services of dyers to weavers' co-operative societies free of cost with a view to enable the societies to set up their own dye-houses."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" அது எப்பொழுது கொடுக்கப்படும் என்று சொல்லமுடியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It is for the societies to avail themselves of these funds that are available. If the primary weavers' societies do not avail themselves of the assistance provided by the Government, then we will also examine whether the Madras State Handloom Co-operative Society might not start dyeing factories in Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli, South Arcot and Chingleput districts where coloured varieties of cloth are produced."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" May I know whether contribution from this cess fund will be given equally to all districts and how much Kancheepuram will be getting? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There is no question of equal distribution in respect of this matter. Contribution from the cess fund will be given according to the needs of each place."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, recently this matter was discussed between the Secretary, Development Department, and the representatives of handloom owners and handloom workers' unions and it was unanimously decided to open a dyeing factory in Malabar. As Malabar produces all varieties of coloured clothes, will the Government be pleased to open one such factory in Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The present proposal, as made by the State Handloom Co-operative Society, is that dyeing factories with improved equipments should be started in Madurai, Salem and Kancheepuram. Other proposals will be examined in due course."

State Handloom Committee

* 1622 *Q*.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a meeting of the State Handloom Committee was held on 9th February 1955; and

(*b*) what were the proposals made by the committee for the utilization of the Handloom Cess Fund allotted to this State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Committee did not go into the question of utilization of the State's share of the cess fund as such but was more

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concerned with the problem of organizing the weavers outside the co-operative fold and extending assistance to them from the resources available from the cess fund. Concrete proposals in that regard are awaited."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Is it one of the proposals to set apart a portion of the cess fund for the purchase of improved looms and reeds for handloom workers? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice, Sir. But I find that the consensus of opinion in that meeting is that joint stock companies should be formed to organize the dependent weavers attached to master weavers primarily and the independent weavers secondarily and that such companies should normally function as complementary units to the co-operative institutions."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that there is a general complaint about the utilization of this cess fund in Malabar and that the amount allotted to Malabar is much less as compared to other districts? If so, will the Government be pleased to instruct the Collector of the district to call for a meeting of the representatives of handloom owners and handloom workers' unions for the purpose of consulting them on the utilization of this fund for the handloom industry in Malabar in view of the peculiar conditions there? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There are general complaints about so many things. But so far as this question relating to Malabar is concerned, the Government are proposing to start industrial co-operatives in order to suit the peculiar conditions in Malabar. They would also examine any other concrete suggestions that might be made about Malabar in this respect."

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM :—" Have the Government of India imposed any restriction regarding the 'heads' under which this cess fund has to be utilized? If so, have this Government made representation to them that some portion of it may be utilized for providing houses for poor handloom weavers? I want to know the view of this Government on this matter."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir, the Government do propose to start housing colonies in certain centres."

SRI O. KORAN :—" May I know whether the State Handloom Committee has recommended to the Government to give aid to pitloom weavers, who are in a large number in this State and if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice."

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SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that the President has not given his assent to the Bill relating to the enhanced sales tax of 1 anna 3 pies in the rupee at a single point on medium mill cloth—this was disclosed by the Hon. Minister for Finance in his Budget speech. If so, when is the President expected to give his assent? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Bill proposing an enhanced levy of sales tax on medium mill cloth has nothing to do with the utilization of the cess fund."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" தமிழ் நாட்டில் இண்டஸ்ட்ரியல் கோவாபரேடிவ்ஸ் ஏற்படுத்துவதற்கு திட்டம் இருக்கிறதா ? அப்படியிருந்தால் எந்தெந்த இடங்களில் சர்க்கார் ஏற்படுத்துவதற்கு யோசித்திருக்கிறார்கள் ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" தமிழ் நாட்டிலும் அம்மாதிரி ஏற்படுத்தலாமென்ற யோசனை இருக்கிறது. ஆனால் இன்னும் குறிப்பான பிரேரணை ஒன்றும் வரவில்லை."

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR :—" கைத்தறி வாரம் கொண்டாடுவதற்காக செஸ் நிதியிலிருந்து எவ்வளவு பணம் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது ? ஒவ்வொரு ஜில்லாவிற்கும் சமமாக ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" இதற்குப் பதிலளிக்க தனி நோட்டீஸ் வேண்டும்."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We have already taken up half an hour and we will have to finish the rest of the questions in another half an hour."

Cost of Government publications

* 1623 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Government publications are costlier than similar private publications; and

(*b*) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to bring down the cost of Government publications to that of private publications?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) The cost of Government publications is slightly higher, but only as compared with the quotations of smaller, less equipped and less efficient private presses, who are even likely to underquote during slack season and slump periods.

" (*b*) The following steps are proposed to be taken :—

(1) Replacement of old and antiquated machinery by new machinery capable of giving better production;

(2) use of better quality of paper, thereby reducing waste in machine time and contributing to overall economy in expenditure; and